

REMARKS

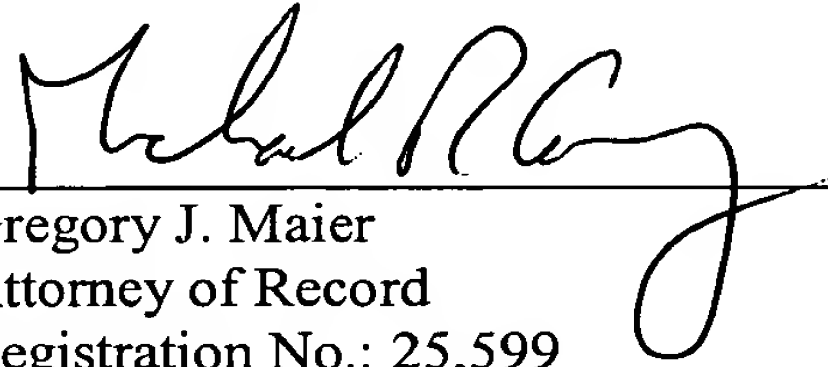
Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, a reference provided in an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed November 26, 2001, was indicated as not having been considered because a copy of the reference was not found within the file.

Accordingly, a copy of French Patent No. 2 739 941, dated April 18, 1997, is provided and applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate consideration of this reference.

Respectfully submitted,

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